

Remarks

Claims 11, 16 and 17 have been amended. No claims have been canceled.

Therefore, claims 1-18 are now presented for examination.

In a Final Office Action mailed March 29, 2006, claims 11, 17 and 18 stand objected for various informalities. Applicant submits that claims 11, 17 and 18 have been amended to correct the informalities.

Claims 1 and 5-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Diepstraten et al. et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0026198). Further, claims 2-4 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Diepstraten in view of Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,853). In response, applicants submit a declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 enclosed herewith to overcome the Diepstraten reference.

The submitted declaration illustrates that that the present application had been conceived in the United States prior to July 31, 2001, the effective filing dates of Diepstraten. Therefore, applicant submits that the above rejections has been obviated since Diepstraten has been overcome by the enclosed 37 C.F.R. §1.131 declaration and Wang alone does not disclose or suggest the features of claims 1-18.

Applicant emphasizes that submission of the enclosed declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131 should not be construed as an acquiescence to the any of the reasons for rejection set forth in the March 29, 2006 Final Office Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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